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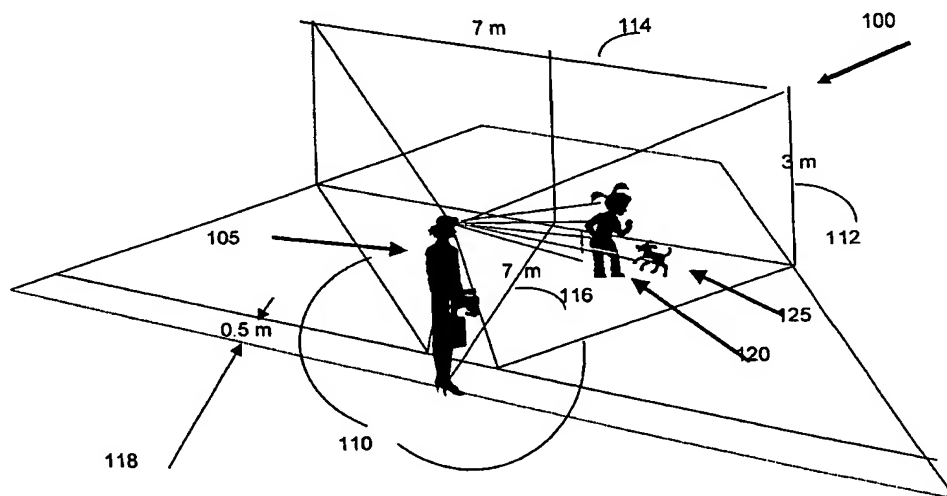
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A MULTISENSOR IMAGING AND SCENE INTERPRETATION SYSTEM TO AID THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for aiding a visually impaired or blind person to detect, identify and avoid objects in the field of vision of the surroundings. The apparatus includes electro-optical devices to detect and identify objects, a control unit, which receives and processes information from the devices and a vocal representation unit to receive instructions from the control unit for purpose of audibly describing the objects to the person in the field of vision, thereby enabling the person to cope and proceed safely in the surroundings. The method for aiding a visually impaired person to detect, identify and objects in the field of vision surroundings includes the steps of receiving visual images of the objects, receiving range information concerning the objects, processing the image information, and audibly describing to the person the objects in the field of vision, thereby enabling the person to cope with, and proceed in his surroundings.